

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP)

10/25/21 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting called to order: 5:05pm

Adjourned: 6:33pm

Committee Member Participants:

Brian Goldberg, Laura Thomas, Gaynor Bigelbach

Non-Committee Member Participants:

Jay Duffner, Lori Slade, Michelle Scaley

1. Introductions - Brian opened the call to meeting #3 and summarized the process to date that has included scoping of the open space and rec plan update process; identifying key stakeholders for engagement; describing the vision for what this plan update can do for Shirley's conservation progress.
2. Continue Committee Scoping Discussion:
 - a. "Monthly Shirley Hiking Event": Group discussed an idea proposed by some town residents for an open space activity to generate engagement and community-building around outdoor recreation. The proposed concept is for a monthly hike at one of Shirley's conservation areas with outdoor recreation and conservation groups such as Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTO, Shirley Greenway Committee, Shirley Trails, etc.
 - i. Key needs for a successful event include:
 1. A one-pager narrative about the hike, paired with a map
 2. Regularly-scheduled monthly hike
 3. Well-advertised in advance to families and walkers of all ages.
 - ii. Key challenges that need to be addressed for group hikes like this:
 1. Start building up one common mapping tool for Town conservation lands (i.e. grotontrails.org)
 2. Few locations with adequate parking (i.e. Morse Property on Little Turnpike)
 3. Consider "Adopt a Hike" idea to enable individuals to sponsor future events by modelling a template of this event
- ACTION:** Jay Duffner to host a follow-up planning session aiming for a New Year hike event
3. Open Space Plan Update: Areas of Interest: Committee discussed those sections that need to be updated and excite members (see Attachment 1: Sections of Plan Needing Updates)
 - i. Synthesis: Gaynor volunteered to lead writing efforts focused on synthesis
 - ii. Surveying: Lori and Laura to develop a few different surveys tailored to different audiences
 1. Some standardized questions for each group and then some different questions for specific groups

- iii. 5 Year Action Plan: Brian volunteered to lead this and would team with Sherry so the Greenway Committee is well-integrated in the action planning
- iv. Mapping Updates: Brian and Sherry to speak with Jen McGuinness about map update processes that enable maps to also meet public needs and Conservation Commission efforts.
- v. Committee to focus outreach and engagement on decision-makers and constituencies who will be most invested in using this plan to inform actions. Most likely user groups include: Planning Board, Select Board, Conservation Commission, Greenway Committee, etc. List to be further refined based on further discussion.

ACTION: Brian to intro Lori and Laura to Anna Wilkins of NLCT / Ashburnham who is leading stakeholder engagement for their open space plan update

ACTION: Brian to send all the State of MA open space manual

- 4. Committee Member comments or other business unforeseen at posting of the agenda
 - i. Lori volunteered to be appointed to the Committee.
 - ii. All agreed to monthly meetings on Mondays 5-6:30pm

ACTION: Brian to connect Lori with Aubrey to help get Lori appointed by Select Board

ACTION: Brian to set up Mon open space plan meetings

5. Public Comments

- i. No additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Attachment 1: Sections of Plan Needing Updates

Section of Open Space + Rec Plan		Must be revised	May need revision	Potential Section Leads?
1: PLAN SUMMARY		Y		
2: INTRODUCTION	Statement of Purpose	Y		
	Planning Process/Public Participation	Y		
3: COMMUNITY SETTING	Regional Context		x	
	History of the Community	No change necessary		

	Population Characteristics	Y		NEED for this
	Growth & Development Patterns		x	
4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	Geology, Soils, and Topography	No change necessary		
	Landscape Character		x	
	Water Resources		x	Sherry Anders
	Vegetation		x	
	Fisheries + Wildlife		x	
	Scenic Resources and Unique Environments		x	
	Environmental Challenges		x	
5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST	Private Parcels		x	Jenn McGuinness (mapping), Sherry
	Public and Nonprofit Parcels		x	Jenn McGuinness (mapping), Sherry
6: COMMUNITY GOALS	Description of Process	Y		
	Statement of Open Space + Rec Goals	Y		
7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	Summary of Resource Protection Needs	Y		Gaynor (writing, synthesizing, photos); Laura, Lori (surveying);
	Summary of Community's Needs	Y		Gaynor (writing, synthesizing comments, photos); Laura, Lori (surveying);
	Management Needs, Potential Change of Use	Y		
8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES		Y		
9: FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN		Y		Sherry, Brian
10: PUBLIC COMMENTS		Y		Laura, Lori (surveying);
11: REFERENCES		Y		